

THE KALIFORNSKI

SRETAN BOŽIĆ i SRETNA NOVA GODINA



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Feliz Navidad Y prospero Año Nuevo

Frohe Weihnachten und ein gluckliches neues Jahr

Boas Festas e um Feliz Ano Novo



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo

NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 226 - WATSONVILLE, CA. 95077
(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

EDITORS:
Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud
Nina Matulich

WINTER 2011





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO EVERYONE FROM THE S.A.C.O. OFFICERS
& THE KALIFORNSKI EDITORS.....



SEASON'S GREETINGS & WISHING EVERYONE
HOLIDAY HAPPINESS & THE BEST IN THE COMING
NEW YEAR!!!!



S.A.C.O. OFFICERS

President ~ Steve Belick ~ 477-7523
Vice-President ~ Peter Kovacich ~ 724-0071
Treasurer ~ Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud ~ 637-2744
Recording Secretary ~ Linda Wathen Espejo ~ 724-2892
Financial Secretary ~ Nina Matulich ~ 724-7971



*Merry
Christmas*

REMINDER OF S.A.C.O. DUES

Your annual S.A.C.O. dues are now due (January 2012)

SINGLE ~ \$12.00

FAMILY ~ \$18.00

Please make check payable to S.A.C.O. and mail to:
S.A.C.O.

c/o 535 McKenzie Ave.
Watsonville, CA 95076



CALENDAR

S.A.C.O COMING EVENTS 2012

APRIL 14, 2012 ~ Saturday ~ Dinner

JULY 8, 2012 ~ Sunday ~ BBQ Corralitos Padre Park

DECEMBER 8, 2012 ~ Christmas Dinner





MERRY CHRISTMAS

WELCOME NEW S.A.C.O. MEMBER

Linda Pavlovich ~ Watsonville, CA

CORRESPONDENCE

Scholarship recipient ~ Celsiana Gera

Thank you S.A.C.O., I am truly touched by your confidence and support for my exciting years ahead at UCLA. With much heartfelt gratefulness, I thank you for your check.

*Most Sincerely,
Celsiana Gera*



Dear Agnes,

Thank you so much for getting our amazing journey into the SACO newsletter~it looks great! Your work on this is so appreciated. See you at the next SACO dinner.

*Donna Mekis
Santa Cruz, CA*

IN MEMORIAM

MARY A. PILO

*89 years ~ October 22, 2011 ~ Watsonville, CA
Cousin to numerous ones*



CROATIA TRAVEL NEWS.....

KONAVLE RESTAURANT REVIEW

Now that Anthony Bourdain has proclaimed Croatian food to be one of the best unknown cuisines in the world, we need to share a secret...



Konoba Koraćeva Kuća, a spectacular new Croatian restaurant, has been opened by the Mihatović family in the town of Gruda, located 20 minutes south of Dubrovnik (5 minutes south of the Dubrovnik airport) right along the Adriatic Highway (Jadranska magistrala) in the rural area of Konavle.

The three most unique aspects of this restaurant are: the gorgeous setting, the artistic eye in which every aspect of the restaurant has been designed, and the freshness and quality of their traditional homemade food.

While seated in the outdoor courtyard of an ancient stone farmhouse in front of an elegantly set table, we were surrounded by olive trees, hanging bunches of dried lavender, and the astonishing backdrop of the Dinaric Mountain Range. Inside the farmhouse, it was obvious the family had worked hard to preserve the original cypress rafters, stone floors, and even their family's framed photos dating back to the turn of the last century.

Upon our arrival, we sampled the rozulin and višnjak (rose and wild cherry liqueurs) made by the Mihatović family. For dinner we chose grilled lamb cooked with hints of olive oil, garlic and rosemary; and grilled veal cooked with sage. Both of these dishes were served with the traditional combination of kupus (a form of kale commonly grown in southern Croatia), potatoes and green beans – all perfectly cooked and seasoned. We also sampled their excellent stuffed bellpeppers and zucchinis. All the produce served in the restaurant is exceptionally fresh and grown nearby in their family garden.

Desert was the most astonishing hazelnut cake made by daughter Marija, with layers of freshly whipped cream – it was light, flavorful, not too sweet, and simply one of the best cakes we've ever eaten. They also offered rosata (similar to Spanish flan) and homemade carrot cake with mascarpone cheese and honey.

Konoba Koraćeva Kuća is simply exceptional! If you go, you'll be writing to all of your friends about the experience.

From the U.S. call: 011 385 20 791 557

From the Dubrovnik region call: 791 557

Reviewed by: Donna Mekis and Kathryn Mekis Miller

Authors, *Blossoms Into Gold, The Croatians in the Pajaro Valley*

<www.blossomsintogold.com>



Happy Holidays!



A quick but treasured glimpse...

For the last few years I had dreamt about one day visiting Croatia – the country my grandparents grew up in. They were both from the small village of Dol on the island of Brač. During the time they came to the United States, everybody was coming to America in search of a better life - or at least what they thought would be a better life. Growing up in Hollister, I would hear my relatives talk about “the old country” but due to the unsettled times in what was then known as Yugoslavia and the fact that they were establishing themselves and their families in this new land, there was never talk about visiting their beloved homeland. It wasn’t until a few years back that I really started feeling the need or desire to visit the land where it all started. My husband and I were fortunate enough to be able to visit the wonderful country of Croatia this past Fall. We traveled with a group to the Dalmatian Coast that had a set schedule of stops and unfortunately Brač was not one of them. Even though we would be visiting great places such as Rovinj, Trogir, Korčula and Dubrovnik, I knew we could not travel to Croatia without seeing Brač. I started researching and planning how we would be able to visit the village and island that was a part of my heritage.

It was the morning of September 13, 2011 when our cruise ship dropped anchor a few miles outside of Trogir. To say I was excited was an understatement. My husband and I made sure to be on the first tender going to shore in Trogir where we were to meet our tour guide and water taxi. As we rode the tender to shore, I started to wonder what I would do if our guide was not there because I did not speak the language. In all of my excitement, I hadn’t thought that far ahead. As we got close to shore, there she was with her little sign “Matulich – Hunter” – my nerves started to settle as we were greeted by Anita, a wonderful tour guide and native of Split. This was the first of many warm welcomes.

From there we boarded a water taxi and ventured out for our 30-40 minute ride over beautiful water to the island of Brač. Croatia has over 1000 islands, all of which are known for their own beauty and charm. Brač is the island of sun, stone and sea. As a child, I would hear people say that “the old country” was just a pile of rocks. Little did they know how true that statement was...however the rocks are what make the island so wonderful. They are all along the shores, they are around the olive trees on the hillsides, they are the walls of homes - rocks are everywhere. A person learns to use what God and nature gives them and it is obvious that is what the people of Brač have done for many years.

We pulled into the village of Dol where approximately 100 people still live – at one time there were over 700 people living in Dol. I was a bit nervous and excited because we were going to eat lunch at konoba TONI which is a restaurant owned by the Matulić family. Of course in the back of my mind I was wondering if perhaps these may be distant relatives of mine. I soon found out that the village of Dol had three main family surnames – Matulić (my grandfather’s surname – John Matulich), Gospodnetić (my grandmother’s surname – Naste Gospodnetich-Matulich), and Arnerić. Thank goodness for Anita as not only was she our tour guide but she also acted as interpreter. The first part of our visit was spent trying to figure out if we were all related but unfortunately I did not have birth dates of my grandparents and the language barrier (even with an interpreter) made things a bit challenging. But that didn’t matter. What did matter was that I was in Dol and experiencing a lifestyle so different than what I was used to. Or was it? It wasn’t until I had a chance to sit back and think about things that I realized how much of my childhood upbringing had bits and pieces straight from this foreign land that I had never really known about as a child. My father, Nick Matulich, was born in the United States but there

were so many things in this short visit that reminded me of him I knew we had made the right decision to visit.

The thing I remember most from everywhere we visited in Croatia was that the people seemed very proud of their heritage and wanted to preserve it. I thought perhaps that may have come from the many years of struggle they had all endured. The unpretentious sites and people made me fall in love with the country. Because our trip was truly just a glimpse, we will be returning to Brač to fully explore the entire island and learn even more of my family heritage.



small village of DRAGUC (outside of ROVINJ))

Lizz Matulich-Hunter
Hollister, California



village of DOL~BRAC (Konoba TONI~MATULIC family)



DUBROVNIK





Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education

A Division of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District



MULTI-LEVEL CROATIAN CONVERSATIONAL



ZLATNI RAT, BRAC



CILIP, CROATIA

There are many people in Watsonville and in Santa Cruz County whose ancestors came from Croatia. This class will teach basic conversational Croatian, vocabulary, conversation, greetings, and everyday expressions, as well as introduce students to the country of Croatia, its culture (food, music, customs, etc.), as well as the Croatian influence in the Pajaro Valley for over 140 years.



POSTIRA, ISLAND BRAC, CROATIA



DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Aptos High School, (room I-201) 100 Mariner Way, Aptos

Tues 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Instructor Basor/Luci Basor

Session 1: Jan 10 - Mar 13 \$90 Session 2: Mar 20 - May 29 \$90

REGISTER TODAY!

GREEN VALLEY CENTER

294 Green Valley Road, Watsonville CA 95076

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www.waae.pvusd.net

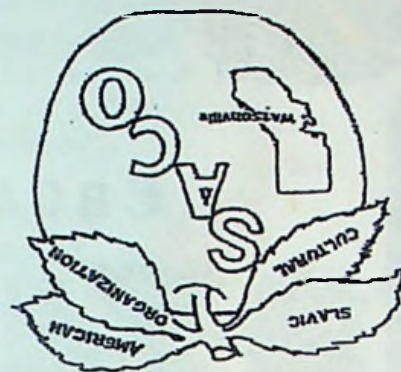


Happy Holidays!

DATED MATERIAL - Please Rush



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